

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same foreign party has interest in Karachi and Colombo which are rivals to Indian ports; and

(d) if so, what government propose to do to ward off any harm to our national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The policy of the Government is to allow private sector participation in the projects of the Major Port Trusts and the guidelines in this regard identify the following areas:

- (i) Leasing out existing assets of the port.
- (ii) Construction/creation of additional assets.
- (iii) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.
- (iv) Pilotage.
- (v) Captive facilities for port based industries.

(b) One foreign party was awarded the Container Terminal project at Jawaharlal Nehru Port during 1997 and is operating this terminal. The offer of the same party has been accepted for the container Terminal Projects at Kandla and Chennai Ports. The offer of this party also happens to be most attractive in the bidding process for the Container Terminal Project at Cochin.

(c) and (d) It is true that the same party is involved in Container terminals at Karachi and Colombo. Private party is selected after following transparent bidding procedure and national interest is always kept paramount in decision making.

Reserve Deposits of KPT

†2462. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the reserve deposits of Kandla Port Trust as on date;
- (b) the total amount contemplated to be released by the Trust,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[19 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

out of above, for the purpose of various schemes for the quake-affected areas of Kutch;

(c) the total amount released by Kandla Port trust as an immediate relief measure upto 13th February, 2001; and

(d) whether Government have issued any standing directions to release the aid with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The reserve and surplus fund with Kandla Port Trust as on 31.3.2000 is Rs. 1115.67 crores.

(b) and (c) Kandla Port, which is one of the earthquake affected areas of the Kutch Divisions, sustained damages to the tune of Rs. 51 crores. The repairs/restoration of the damages to the Port would be carried out from the reserves available with the Kandla Port Trust. So far, an amount of Rs. 51 lakhs has been spent on immediate relief measures.

(d) Kandla Port Trust has formed a Trust to undertake relief and restoration works in earthquake affected Kandla, Gandhidham and Adipur areas. Various Port Trusts, including Kandla Port Trust, public sector companies under Ministry of Shipping and users of the Ports are expected to contribute funds to the Trust.

Development of Inland Waterways in the Country

2463. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Waterways has developed and regulated some waterways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether navigation has started in all these waterways;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the position as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF